

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00
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R 200630Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9200
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 0462

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT CORRECTED)

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1, 4 DIMPTD
TAGS: EAIR LA VM US
SUBJECT: PAN AMERICAN AIRLINES DELEGATION DISCUSSES OVERFLIGHT
RIGHTS WITH SRV AND LPDR

REF: A VIENTIANE 0316, B VIENTIANE0327

1. PAN AMERICAN VICE PRESIDENT FOR FEDERAL AFFAIRS
JOHN KRIMSKY, WHO RETURNED APRIL 18 FROM AMBER ONE
OVERFLIGHT DISCUSSIONS IN HANOI, CALLED ON THE EMBASSY
APRIL 19. KRIMSKY SAID THAT HE HAD REACHED AN AGREE-
MENT IN PRINCIPLE REGARDING OVERFLIGHTS WITH SRV
DIRECTOR GENERAL OF CENTRAL CIVIL AVIATION PHUNG THE
TAI, BUT HE DID NOT GIVE EMBASSY OFFICERS DETAILS OF
THE AGREEMENT. KRIMSKY SAID HE WOULD CABLE APRIL 19
THE TEXT OF A JOINT PAA/SRV PRESS RELEASE TO PAA HEAD-
QUARTERS IN WASHINGTON FOR THEM TO PASS TO ASSISTANT
SECRETARY HOLBROOKE. (WE WOULD APPRECIATE THE
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DEPARTMENT'S CABLING US THE TEXT WHEN IT IS RECEIVED.)

2. KRIMSKY SAID THE NEGOTIATIONS HAD GONE WELL AND
THAT THE VIETNAMESE SEEMED INTERESTED IN SOLVING OUT-
STANDING PROBLEMS IN ORDER TO REACH AN OVERFLIGHT
AGREEMENT. WHILE HE DID NOT PROVIDE DETAILS OF THE
DISCUSSIONS, KRIMSKY SAID THAT THE VIETNAMESE HAD MEN-

TIONED THE STATUS OF A 707, A 727, A DC-6, AND SOME OTHER AIRCRAFT THAT HAD BEEN OWNED BY AIR VIETNAM BEFORE THE FALL OF SAIGON.

3. KRIMSKY SAID HE BELIEVED THAT THE VIETNAMESE HAD ORIGINALLY POST-PONED THEIR MARCH MEETING WITH PANAM AS AN EXERCISE IN GAMESMANSHIP AND ATOMSPHERICS. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT WHEN THE PAA DELEGATION FINALLY REACHED HANOI, THEY WERE TREATED QUITE WELL BY THE VIETNAMESE. KRIMSKY SAID THE VIETNAMESE NEVER MENTIONED EMBARRASSING TOPICS OR SENSITIVE BILATERAL US/SRV PROBLEMS SUCH AS THE HUMPHREY/HUONG TRIAL. THEY OFTEN EXPRESSED A HOPE FOR IMPROVED US/SRV RELATIONS IN THE FUTURE.

4. KRIMSKY SAID A THAI AIRWAYS DELEGATION HAD LEFT HANOI APRIL 18 AFTER SIGNING AN AGREEMENT WITH THE SRV PERMITTING THAI AIRWAYS TO FLY TO HANOI FROM BANGKOK EVERY WEDNESDAY.

5. KRIMSKY SAID THAT THE NEW HANOI AIRPORT HAD BEEN COMPLETED AND THAT THE RUNWAY WAS 2800 METERS LONG. HE SAID THAT THE VIETNAMESE WERE IN THE PROCESS OF ADDING ANOTHER 1000 METERS TO THE RUNWAY.

6. KRIMSKY MET WITH PHOUNE KHAMMOUANGHEUANG, DIRECTOR OF THE LAO DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION, ON THE MORNING
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OF APRIL 19 AND WAS TO MEET WITH LAO OFFICIALS ONCE AGAIN BEFORE FLYING TO BANGKOK THAT SAME AFTERNOON. KRIMSKY SAID THAT HE HAD FOUND PHOUNE TO BE A TOUGHER NEGOTIATOR THIS SECOND TIME AROUND (REF A). HE SAID THAT PHOUNE HAD INTRODUCED A NEW DEMAND NOT IN THE ORIGINAL NOTAM THAT PAA PAY OVERFLIGHT FEES IN ADVANCE. KRIMSKY SAID THAT PAA WOULD BE PREPARED TO MAKE SOME SORT OF AN ADVANCE PAYMENT TO THE LPDR IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE AN AGREEMENT. HE SAID THAT THE FINAL OVERFLIGHT ARRANGEMENT WITH THE LAO HAD NOT YET BEEN FORMALIZED.

7. KRIMSKY SAID THAT PHOUNE HAD ALSO REQUESTED THAT KRIMSKY MAKE A "PERSONAL GIFT" TO THE LPDR OF SEVERAL SINGLE SIDEBAND RADIOS FOR COMMUNICATION BETWEEN ELEVEN LAO AIRPORTS. EACH UNIT COST ABOUT \$3000. KRIMSKY SAID THAT HE SLID OUT OF THE REQUEST BY SAYING THAT HE DOUBTED WHETHER HE COULD GET PERMISSION FROM THE USG TO PROVIDE SUCH A "GIFT". PHOUNE SEEMED TO ACCEPT THAI EXPLANATION AND PROMISED KRIMSKY THAT HE WOULD ADVISE THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO APPROVE PANAM'S TECHNICAL SUBMISSION CONTAINED IN THE DIPLOMATIC NOTE THE EMBASSY HAD SENT MARCH 11 (REF B).

8. KRIMSKY SAID THAT PHOUNE WANTED TO KNOW THE DETAILS OF THE PAA/SRV OVERFLIGHT DISCUSSIONS BUT THAT KRIMSKY WOULD NOT TELL HIM. KRIMSKY DESCRIBED PHOUNE AS SENSITIVE TO THE ISSUE OF LAO SOVEREIGNTY IN REGARDS TO THE VIETNAMESE. KRIMSKY BELIEVED, HOWEVER, THAT IF THE LAO WERE TO BALK IN APPROVING AN OVERFLIGHT AGREEMENT, A WORD FROM THE VIETNAMESE WOULD QUICKLY CHANGE THE LPDR'S MIND.

9. KRIMSKY WAS ACCOMPANIED BY PANAM'S PACIFIC COMMUNICATIONS SUPERVISOR, GEORGE KANNON. THE TWO WERE SCHEDULED TO DEPART THE LPDR FOR BANGKOK APRIL 19. KRIMSKY DID NOT INTEND TO LEAVE DON MUANG BUT RATHER TO CONFIDENTIAL

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FLY IMMEDIATELY TO HONG KONG AND THEN TO WASHINGTON. KANNON PLANS TO SPEND A FEW DAYS IN PATTAYA. THE TWO OTHER MEMBERS OF THE PAA DELEGATION, MCCLELLAN AND SAUBOLLE, REMAINED IN HANOI AND INTEND TO FLY BACK TO HONG KONG IN A FEW DAYS VIA NANNING AND CANTON. ROBERTS

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